

## PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)



*People Helping People* is a small project founded in the Chapel of Penha de França to help those in need. Our former Bishop D. António once said, "One must find new ways of helping the poor". A very small group of people attending the English Mass decided to do just that after the floods in 2010! In a short period of time we created partnerships with supermarket chains and restaurants; we have paid dozens of medical prescriptions, we have spent gallons and gallons of petrol riding across the island giving lifts, we have prevented families from going hungry, getting their electricity cut off, running out of gas, losing their homes. **We have tried to keep them warm, keep them hopeful, and keep them dreaming...**

**The Mission Statement of People Helping People is...** through social solidarity, to mobilize many people to help many people in a combat against poverty, hunger, illness, exclusion, indifference, intolerance, and social injustice, with a special preference for the last, the least and the lost, having as a model the person of Jesus, the «Good Shepherd» (Gospel according to Luke, chapter 15). Our wish is that it may always be an open door when all the other doors close, building in this way, different feelings and acts of Mercy (Gospel according to Luke, chapter 6 and Matthew chapter 25).

"You should wash each other's feet"  
(John 13:14).

### >> PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE CONTACTS:

**EUROPE:** Pe Bernardino Andrade, Rua das Murteiras, 28 - 1E, 9060-199 Funchal, Madeira, Portugal.

Email: bernardinodandrade@gmail.com

**USA:** Larry and Janice Contreras, 60 Meeks Ln., Oakley, CA 94561. Tel. 707-333-5501

Email: la.contreras@sbcglobal.net

### >> TRANSFER TO BANK ACCOUNT IN MADEIRA:

#### ACCOUNT NAME:

Associação Gente Ajudando Gente

**BANK:** Banco Santander Totta

**ACCOUNT NUMBER:** 0003 4938 1759020

**IBAN:** PT50 0018 0003 49381759020 94

**SWIFT:** TOTAPTPL

**NIB:** 0018 0003 49381759020 94

#### Bank Address:

Caminho de Santa Quitéria 46A,  
9020-119, Funchal  
Madeira, Portugal.



### >> PAYPAL:

genteajudandogente2016@gmail.com

### >> DONATIONS FROM THE USA:

**Instructions for sending funds to  
People Helping People in Madeira,  
Portugal, from USA:**

**Write a check made out to:** Fr  
Bernardino Andrade PHP  
in the bottom of the check in Memo  
area add: **PHP**



#### Mail the check to:

Mr. L.A. Contreras  
60 Meeks Lane  
Oakley, Ca 94561

The funds will then be transferred to  
the People Helping People account in  
Madeira, at no cost.

Any questions or concerns please  
contact Larry Contreras at  
707-333-5501 or email him at:  
la.contreras@sbcglobal.net

### >> DONATIONS FROM THE UK:

**ACCOUNT NAME:** Sinead Moynihan

**BANK:** Lloyds Bank

**ACCOUNT NUMBER:** 02461743

**BRANCH:** Univ. of Cambridge

**SORT CODE:** 30-13-55

**IBAN:** GB05 LOYD 3013 5502 4617 43

**BIC:** LOYDGB21035



The funds will then be transferred to Madeira.  
Any questions or concerns about transferring to  
this account, please contact Sinead Moynihan  
at: sineadmoynihnan7@icloud.com

When sending any donation, please send an email to [penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com) with the date, amount, and name on the transfer so that Fr. Bernardino is able to confirm with you as soon as the transfer is received. Thank you.

Older issues of the newsletter can be downloaded from the Chapel's website/blog: [www.rcmassmadeira.org](http://www.rcmassmadeira.org)

## JOYFUL GIFT

25<sup>th</sup> of October 2020

30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França,

Rua Penha de França 3, Funchal, Madeira

**Website and Blog:** <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel.](http://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel.)

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/capela\\_penha\\_franca/](http://www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/)

**E-mail:** [penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com)

### CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH, IN MADEIRA:

**Good morning!** We are blessed every week to have Fr. Bernardino celebrate mass in English every Sunday at 10h00 here at the Chapel. Mass is also celebrated in Portuguese on Saturdays at 18h30 and Sundays at 11h30.



### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

*Exod. 22:20-26 (& cf 24:9-11); Ps. 17:2-4. 47. 51. R.2; 1 Thess. 1:5-10; Matt 22:34-40*

(Brought to you by: Chris Oliver.)

[www.bible-groups.info](http://www.bible-groups.info)



In our reading from **Exodus** the Lord expands the rather general Ten Commandments into detailed rules for living, with practical laws and punishments. In this covenant or treaty, the Lord promises his favour and the people accept certain obligations. Moses sprinkled blood on the people to seal this covenant with the Lord. The sacrificial meal, eating and drinking in the Lord's presence, ritually confirms the people now belong to the family of the Lord. Five verses sum up this very long **Psalm**, thanking God for his help against enemies while welcoming his justice. Continuing our reading from the earliest surviving Christian document, Paul concludes his address to the **Thessalonians** with fulsome praise for them. He knows they are chosen and loved by God because others have told him the examples they give. Especially their imitation of Christ, and their acceptance of the word of the risen Lord, in spite of suffering persecution. In **Matthew's Gospel** it is now the turn of the Pharisees to test Jesus. But they fare no better than the Sadducees heard last week. Again, Jesus shows that he is the authoritative interpreter of the Jewish Scriptures. Even the detailed rules given to Moses can be summed up in the requirement to love God and your neighbour.

### PSALM RESPONSE: I love you, Lord, my strength.

\* These Scripture notes are sent to us every week by Chris Oliver from the UK. If you'd also like to have these included in your parish newsletter, or sent to you, please contact Chris at: [chris@chris-oliver.net](mailto:chris@chris-oliver.net)

**Keyboard:** Larysa Makarova

**Accordion:** Rui César Gomes & **Voice:** Josefina Farinha

**Entry** - "Bind us together, Lord..." - n.65

**Penitential** - "Lord, have mercy" - n. 663

**Offertory** - "One bread, one body, one Lord of all" - n. 449

**Sanctus** - "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord..." - n. 704

**Agnus Dei** - "Lamb of God" - n. 737

**Communion** - "Let there be love shared among us" - n. 317

**Final** - "Shine, Jesus, shine" - n. 344

### TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC





**FROM AN ELITE ...**

One of the most beautiful programs we tried to implement in Penha de França was a program called «BREAD WITH MY BROTHER».

The idea was to involve neighbouring hotels and restaurants and ask them to rotate in offering a weekly hot lunch to be served to tourists and to the homeless, who would get together for a nice meal. The tourists had been informed about the conveniences and inconveniences of joining the homeless at the same table, and eating from the same food, and talking with

one another. The tourists knew that they were going to eat delicious food from the *Reid's Hotel* and from the *Moynihan's Irish Pub*, and from other famous places, but they were also going to find a very different crowd of people. Not a crowd of people who would take a shower every day, but maybe people who were wearing clothes that had not been washed in the last six or twelve months. We were offering good and delicious food, but not the best company that ordinary tourists would find in their lives normally, especially when they visit a beautiful island like Madeira.

We started on a Sunday but immediately moved the program to Saturdays. What happened was that on that first Sunday, *Duarte* (one of the homeless) made a terrible mistake. He arrived too early. He arrived *before* the English Mass. When people (including me) started arriving, Duarte was already there at the front door of the chapel. He was, and really *looked* like a homeless person (or a bum). What happened in that moment was like a tsunami. Some people didn't care, but some were very very upset, especially those who knew Duarte. Tourists and the homeless «should» not mix. That was very offensive for some people attending the English Mass. That would lower the image of Madeira. And I thought «*Oh my God. Where am I? Are these people coming to a Catholic Sunday Mass or to a Catholic Sunday entertainment?*».



Photo taken at of one of the *Bread With My Brother* lunches at the Chapel

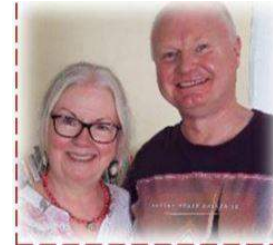
I felt like asking Jesus: «Who failed?» The answer was easy...«I failed. We Catholics failed. After two thousand years of Christianity we were not able to build a welcoming church for the poor. When this is the Mission Statement of Jesus: «*I came to bring good news to the poor*» (Lk. 4).

**...TO BROTHERHOOD**

But something happened last Sunday (Oct. 18). It was after Mass; the weather was cold and rainy. I was in *Moynihan's*, seated very comfortably, enjoying the most delicious cup of coffee and a piece of Manny's cake. In a moment I was interrupted by Manny bringing a special guest to our table. It was *Nuno*.... one of the homeless who appears once in a while at the chapel. For *Nuno*, Manny ordered a cup of coffee.... the biggest cup in the restaurant. This size is called «*Chinesa*» and he also brought *Nuno* a big piece of cake, which Manny had baked. Miracles happen. I remember a Theologian telling one day that Mass is the most «subversive» action of the Church. Mass has the power to change people and any unjust social and political systems if we let God work on us. Miracles happen.



Nuno and Manny last Sunday



**Michael Hartnack** is a former senior police officer from the North East of England. He served as a Chief Superintendent in Northumbria and Cleveland Police Forces. When he retired in 2013, he took up a leading role with the Ministry of Justice in London, working with victims and offenders in a pioneering project known as Restorative Justice. In England and Wales, the Victims Code provides an entitlement for all victims to access **Restorative Justice**. Over the past years Michael has been working for the Merseyside Police and crime Commissioner providing a *Restorative Justice* service to victims of crime and has also worked closely with offenders in prisons. Today he talks about his work in the context of this week's Gospel reading.

**“You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” Matthew 22:34-40**

The most challenging ‘tasks’ of God yet? It is easy to love your neighbour when they are being kind to you. In the first reading today God tells us that, if we wrong anyone ‘*his wrath will flare up and he will kill us with the sword.*’ In the Gospel, Jesus reminds us that the greatest commandment is to love God with all our hearts, souls and minds, but second is to love our neighbours as ourselves.

He goes on to say, that the whole law and the prophets depend upon these two commandments.

So, how does *Restorative Justice* fit in with what Jesus is telling us and what God wants us to do?

**Restorative Justice (RJ)** is not necessarily about forgiveness, it is more about repairing properly the harm that has been caused – repairing and rebuilding relationships, sometimes with individuals, often with groups of people or communities.



Traditionally, Criminal Justice systems tend to focus on the offender, the harm he or she has caused, the sentence they will receive. Rarely do modern jurisdictions focus on the needs of the victim.

Restorative Justice enables offenders to make amends to victims for the harm they have caused, by entering into dialogue with their victim, should the victim wish to participate. RJ empowers victims and reduces the risk of reoffending. Victim satisfaction rates for those participating in RJ are extremely high compared to victim satisfaction rates of the criminal justice system, which are very low indeed.



Independent research into RJ has shown that for every £1 spent on RJ, £9 will be saved on other public services including the Health Service and wider criminal justice system.

Quote from a victim of hate crime: “**While hatred and a desire for revenge might be understandable, these are negative, destructive emotions, they perpetuate the cycle of division and intolerance. My motive is love, not hate.**”

Quote from an offender following his RJ experience: “**I’m slowly becoming the person I should have been a long time ago.**”

One wonders, as we ponder on today's gospel, are we truly loving our neighbour as ourselves? Would we be open to listening and trying to understand where they are coming from? Does Covid-19 and the impact particularly on the poor, provide an even greater challenge in that regard, if lower level crime, as it has, continue to rise?